



UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC 03 2002

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3800

In re application of : DECISION ON PETITION
Robin Ellen Birdsong et al : TO MAKE SPECIAL
Application No. 09/942,422 : (INFRINGEMENT)
Filed: August 30, 2001
For: ELECTRONIC FLEX CARD ADJUDICATION
SYSTEM AND METHOD

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d) filed February 11, 2002 to make the above-identified application special.

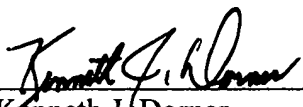
The petition requests that the above-identified application be made special under the procedure set forth in M.P.E.P. § 708.02, item II: Infringement.

MPEP 708.02 states that a Petition to Make Special based on Infringement must have the following: (1) the appropriate petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i); (2) a statement by the assignee, applicant, or attorney alleging: (A) that there is an infringing device or product actually on the market; (B) that a rigid comparison of the alleged infringing device or product with the claims of the application has been made, and that, in his or her opinion, some of the claims are unquestionably infringed; and (C) that he or she has made a careful and thorough search of the prior art, or has good knowledge of the prior art, and has sent a copy of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims.

The petition filed February 11, 2002 includes all of the requirements above and, therefore, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications; (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn; and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference and appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt *bona fide* effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.



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kjd: 11/27/02